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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update 3 – 10:30 a.m.

City begins repair process for River Road sewer pipe break

Work continued throughout the night in response to the spill on River Road. The city has confirmed that the pipe that caused the spill is the River Road forcemain, which is a 24-inch pipe that carries wastewater to the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant. The city was not able to make the repair last night, but did identify the location of the break and determine how the repair needs to be made.

The city estimates that up to 900,000 gallons of wastewater spilled between just after 5 p.m. yesterday and 6 a.m. this morning. More than 450,000 has been captured at the site by tanker trucks that have been pumping wastewater continuously since the spill was discovered.

However, it is estimated that more than 500,000 gallons was not captured and has spilled into the nearby Cape Fear River. The state has issued a precautionary swimming warning for New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

The forcemain broke on Monday afternoon after a contractor for a local utility hit it while excavating to install underground utilities. The spill is located at the intersection of River Road and Shipyard Boulevard, at the entrance to the state Ports facility.

Pumping will continue throughout the day and repair efforts will continue tonight, when flow to the pipeline can be shut down.

As a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.